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SUBJ

REUTER: LEFTIST REBELS RESPONSIBLE FOR DUARTE KIDNAPPING

PA160357

MEXICO CITY REUTER IN ENGLISH TO REUTER LONDON 0349 GHT
16 SEP 85

((BY ROBERT BLOCK))

((TEXT)) SAN SALVADOR SEP 16, REUTER -- LEFT-WING
GUERRILLAS HAVE CONTACTED THE SALVADOREAN GOVERNMENT AND SAID
THEY WERE HOLDING PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE'S KIDNAPPED
DAUGHTER, SOURCES CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT SAID LAST NIGHT.

THE SOURCES, WHO SPOKE ON CONDITION THAT THEY NOT BE
IDENTIFIED, SAID A "VIOLENT" REBEL MILITARY GROUP BELONGING TO
THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN) HAD TAKEN
CREDIT FOR LAST WEEK'S ABDUCTION OF INES GUADALUPE DUARTE DURAN.

THEY DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH OF THE FIVE GROUPS FORMING THE
FMLN WHICH HAS BEEN FIGHTING A SIX-YEAR GUERRILLA WAR AGAINST EL
SALVADOR'S U.S.-BACKED GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY OR
WHAT THEIR DEMANDS WERE FOR HER RELEASE.

DUARTE DURAN, 35, THE OLDEST OF THE PRESIDENT'S SIX CHILDREN
WAS ABDUCTED BY GUHHEN ALONG WITH A CLASSMATE IN FRONT OF A SAN
SALVADOR UNIVERSITY LAST TUESDAY.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS EARLIER HAD SAID THE ORGANISATION AND
STYLE OF THE ABDUCTION LED THEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE FMLN WAS
BEHIND THE ACTION BUT REBEL RADIO STATIONS WHICH NORMALLY TAKE
CREDIT FOR SUCH ACTION HAVE REMAINED SILENT.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID THE GUERRILLAS WERE PROBABLY VERY
SURPRISED BY THE EXTENT OF INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE PROVOKED BY
THE ABDUCTION AND HAD DECIDED NOT TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THEIR
RESPONSIBILITY.

ONE DUARTE AIDE RECENTLY TOLD REUTERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WAS HOPING THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT BUT
INSTEAD SEEK PRIVATE CONTACTS WHERE AN AGREEMENT COULD BE WORKED
OUT.

A HIGH RANKING MILITARY SOURCE CLOSE TO THE INVESTIGATION
TOLD REUTERS THAT THE FIRST CONTACT BETWEEN THE KIDNAPPERS AND
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WAS MADE ON FRIDAY BUT SAID THE COMMUNICATION
WAS CUT SHORT WHEN A HELICOPTER WAS HEARD FLYING IN THE BACKGROUND.

ANOTHER SOURCE SAID THE CONTACT WAS MADE THROUGH THE ARMY'S
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WITH A STOLEN MILITARY RADIO.

THE SOURCES SAID GOVERNMENT LEADERS WERE SATISFIED THE CONTACT

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WAS LEGITIMATE AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER WAS SAFE FOR THE
TIME BEING, BUT FAR FROM OUT OF DANGER.

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES THAT THE
KIDNAPPERS HAVE DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF THE TOP GUERRILLA LEADERS
NOW BEING HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR DUARTE DURAN.

ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS THE GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING AT LEAST FIVE
IMPORTANT GUERRILLAS, INCLUDING TWO TOP REBEL MILITARY LEADERS:
NIDIA DIAZ, A POLITICAL-MILITARY CHIEF FOR THE SMALL REVOLUTIONARY
WORKERS' PARTY (PRTC) AND AMERICO MAURO ARAUJO THE NUMBER
TWO IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY FORCES.

ONE TOP MILITARY OFFICIAL SAID IF THE KIDNAPPERS INSISTED ON THE
RELEASE OF ALL THE TOP CAPTURED REBELS THEN "INES IS GOING TO DIE
BECAUSE THEY WOULD NEVER RELEASE THEM ALL."

DUARTE HAS NAMED A THREE-MAN COMMISSION COMPOSED OF A CLOSE
ADVISER, HIS SON AND THE COUNTRY'S DEFENCE MINISTER TO CONSIDER
THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IN MEETING ANY OF THE KIDNAPPERS DEMANDS.

NONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WERE AVAILABLE FOR
COMMENT BUT SOURCES CLOSE TO THE ADVISORY PANEL SAID THE GUERRILLAS
WERE PROBABLY LOOKING FOR A DIPLOMATIC EXIT TO THE PROBLEM.

THEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE WILLING TO REFRAIN FROM
PUBLICLY BLAMING THE FMLN OR ITS POLITICAL WING, THE DEMOCRATIC
REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (FDR) AND INSTEAD SAY THE ABDUCTION WAS
THE WORK OF CASH-SEEKING COMMON CRIMINALS.

((ENDALL)) 160349 16/0426Z SEP

EOT

Approved for Release
AUG 1994

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